

As the time for reauthorization neared, producers and packers engaged again in a dialogue to develop a consensus proposal for reauthorization. H.R. 3408 is the product of this hard work. The coalition that supports this consensus legislation included the National Pork Producers Council, the American Meat Institute, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the American Sheep Industry Association, and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

This package, as it appears before us today, is a carefully crafted document. All of these organizations have agreed that they will oppose it "if any amendment is adopted that does not have the prior agreement" of the coalition.

Mandatory price reporting expires at the end of September, and this bill reauthorizes it for 5 years with minor changes representing the consensus of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) for working with us on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this issue. Policy is always best when we can work together in a bipartisan manner to craft legislation which we have done on this piece of legislation and we have legislation that addresses the needs of his stakeholders. I think we have accomplished that today with the reauthorization of the mandatory price reporting law.

I think it should be noted that when this was first put together and considered back in 1999, it was somewhat controversial and there were some groups that were opposed to it. And to show you kind of what has happened this time, the groups that were concerned back then support this law and support this reauthorization.

Originally, it was balanced to address the concerns of the livestock producers with price transparency, and mandatory price reporting I think has served the industry well. Mandatory price reporting is a necessary tool to ensure that our producers have a transparent market atmosphere. As the structure of our livestock production systems continue to change, it is necessary to preserve the safety net that guarantees our producers are receiving fair prices for their livestock.

The legislation we consider today improves the quality and quantity of information, making the process more accurate and more efficient. The 5-year reauthorization is important and should be completed as soon as possible. It is important that we complete this task so we can avoid the gap in reporting that occurred last year.

I am pleased to support this bill with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3408, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3408.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

#### SUPPORTING A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 240) supporting the goals and ideals of a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and encouraging all Americans to observe that day.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 240

Whereas on August 25, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the southeast tip of Florida as a Category 1 hurricane;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina moved into the Gulf of Mexico, rapidly intensifying to a Category 5 hurricane and, on August 29, 2005, made landfall on the Gulf coast as a Category 4 hurricane with 140 mile-per-hour winds, devastating communities and towns in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana;

Whereas the levees protecting the city of New Orleans, Louisiana from Lake Pontchartrain failed, causing heavy flooding in the city and inflicting incredible human and material damage;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina caused the evacuation of the city of New Orleans, marking the first time a major American city has been completely evacuated;

Whereas the number of individuals killed by Hurricane Katrina is estimated to be in the hundreds;

Whereas the damage to human life and the fabric of families torn apart by Hurricane Katrina is inestimable;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina has inflicted enormous damage to homes and businesses along the Gulf Coast, with damage estimates in the hundreds of billions of dollars;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina left an estimated five million people without power,

and it may be months before all power is restored;

Whereas the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida have received federal disaster declarations;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina ranks among the worst natural disasters in our Nation's history;

Whereas years of intense effort will be required to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and to rebuild the Gulf Coast;

Whereas the American people have an inherent spirit of willpower and strong resilience;

Whereas the American people have opened their hearts and their homes to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, sheltering its victims, providing food and medical assistance, and donating hundreds of millions of dollars to the relief effort;

Whereas Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco declared August 31, 2005, to be a day of prayer in the State of Louisiana, and asked that all Louisianans take time that day to pray for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and their rescuers; and

Whereas President George W. Bush has proclaimed September 16, 2005, to be a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress supports the goals and ideals of a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and encourages all Americans to observe that day.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 240.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 240. This resolution expresses the solidarity of the House of Representatives with the people of the Gulf Coast whose lives have been lost, uprooted, and otherwise changed forever because of Hurricane Katrina.

On August 29, Hurricane Katrina slammed into Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane. It left almost the entire city of New Orleans under water and ravaged numerous other Gulf Coast communities. Hundreds of people were killed and millions forced to evacuate for an indefinite period of time. Katrina was one of the most destructive natural disasters that the United States has ever endured. The entire Nation has been grieving for more than 2 weeks.